

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 HA-05 SAA-01 /058 W
-----126698 202227Z /73
P 202200Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8065

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 05226

NOFORN/WNINTEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PN
SUBJECT: REPORTED KILLING BY NATIONAL GUARD

REF: A. STATE 183050 B. PANAMA 4549

1. EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE CONFIRMATION OF INFORMATION REPORTED BY 470TH MI GP IN IR 2-771-0358. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE 470TH ADVISES THAT THE "HIGH RANKING GOVERNMENT OF PN OFFICIAL" MENTIONED IN THE SUMMARY AND IN PARA. 2 OF THE REPORT PROBABLY REFERS TO COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE PEDRO SATURNO (PARA. 2A OF THE REPORT), AND THAT HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS A "HIGH RANKING LOCAL OFFICIAL."

2. ASIDE FROM "MATUTINO" ARTICLE REPORTED REF B, EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF ANY PUBLIC GOP STATEMENT ON THE CASE. HOWEVER, EMBOFFS HAVE BROUGHT THE MATTER UP WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND HAVE REQUESTED THE MINISTRY'S ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING A WORKING-LEVEL CHANNEL TO THE NATIONAL GUARD FOR INQUIRIES ON THIS CASE IN PARTICULAR AND ON OTHER SIMILAR PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT ARISE IN THE FUTURE.

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3. WE HAVE OBTAINED SOME INFORMATION -- ALSO NOT REPEAT NOT CONFIRMED -- FROM A PANAMENISTA PARTY SOURCE. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, THE GUARD OFFICER, FELIX CENTENO, WHO WAS ARRESTED FOR THE ALLEGED KILLING OF RAMON RIVERA, WAS HELD FOR ONLY A COUPLE OF DAYS AND IS NOW FREE. ARREST ORDERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR NINE OTHER GUARD MEMBERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALLEGED BEATINGS OF OTHERS

INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT, BUT NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE.
REPORTEDLY, THE CASE IS IN THE HANDS OF THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL, BUT THE PANAMENISTAS EXPECT THAT IT WILL BE
"BURIED IN PAPERWORK." JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL GUARD, DEATHS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PANAMA05226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780299-0030
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780738/aaaabfuz.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8d63a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 183050
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1939659
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED KILLING BY NATIONAL GUARD
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PN, (RIVERA, RAMON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8d63a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014